THE UNDERSECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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ACQUISITION AND
TECHNOLOGY

SEP 3 1996

MEMORANDUM **FOR SERVICE** ACQUISITION EXECUTIVES
                PRINCIPAL DIRECTOR FOR **INFORMATION** MANAGEMENT
                DIRECTOR, TEST, SYSTEMS ENGINEERING AND
                  EVALUATION
                DIRECTOR, DEFENSE **LOGISTICS AGENCY**
                DIRECTOR, DEFENSE INFORMATION **SYSTEMS AGENCY**

SUBJECT: Evaluation of Contractor Software Capabilities

    As weapon systems become increasingly dependent upon software, DoD buying offices increasingly rely on evaluations of contractor software development capabilities to identify and manage risks, While these evaluations provide valuable information, the process by which DoD conducts and manages software reviews needs improvement. We can minimize multiple reviews on the same contractor facility for essentially the same processes within a relatively short time period. We can improve the consistency of the software review process. We can sham review results across DoD. We can ensure there are justifiable reasons before re-examining a contractor's software practices. We can provide feedback to contractors to stimulate process improvement. We can do all this and still ensure that DoD decision-makers get the timely and accurate information they need.

    Accordingly, I have asked the Software Management Review Council (SMRC) to take the lead in streamlining the contractor software development capability review process. The SMRC should form a process action team with the Military Departments, the Defense Contract Management Command (DCMC), the Defense Information Systems Agency, and the OSD staff to work out the mechanics of the process. Software Engineering Institute and industry participation is encouraged.

    The SMRC shall provide an implementation plan within 60 days from the date of this letter.

    I appreciate everyone's support in this important, acquisition streamlining endeavor.

Paul Kaminski

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